ADVISORY AND OVERSIGHT GROUP | September 30, 2024

Welcome!

Victoria-Saanich Citizens' Assembly on Municipal Amalgamation

VICTORIA SAANICH CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY

victoriasaanich.ca

AGENDA

1. Welcome & Recap
Review of Assembly Session 1

2. Program Review
Session 2 speakers
Sessions 3-4 proposed program

3. Next Steps
Upcoming Sessions
Public Meetings

Next Advisory Group meeting:
Monday, Dec 2, 2024, 6-7pm PT

Victoria-Saanich Citizens' Assembly

The Assembly is mandated by the District of Saanich and the City of Victoria to explore the costs, benefits and disadvantages of the amalgamation between the District of Saanich and the City of Victoria.

Specifically, the Assembly will:

a. Identify common aspirations for good local governance to provide a basis for evaluating costs, benefits and disadvantages of amalgamation and status quo of the municipalities relative to their current independent status.

b. List the issues which the Assembly believes needs to be resolved for amalgamation to merit consideration, including issues related to the implementation and integration of the municipalities under amalgamation.

After weighing the evidence and considering what it believes are the best interests of both municipalities, the Assembly will strive to achieve a consensus recommendation on whether and under what conditions the municipalities should amalgamate. The recommendations could also include suggestions for service integration.

Key dates

Sept 21	Jan 11
Oct 19	Feb 8
Nov 2	Mar 8
Nov 21	Apr 5

Four public roundtable meetings will also be scheduled, where residents can meet and converse with members of the assembly. The first two are November 21 (confirmed at Crystal Gardens, Victoria) and November 26 (online, tentative date). The second round of public meetings will be held in February 2025.
Other key dates:

Dec 2024:	Interim Report
Jan 2025:	Technical Study Report
Jun 2025:	Final Report delivered to Councils

Review of Session 1

Ivy Seward, W̱JOŁEŁP (Tsartlip) First Nation

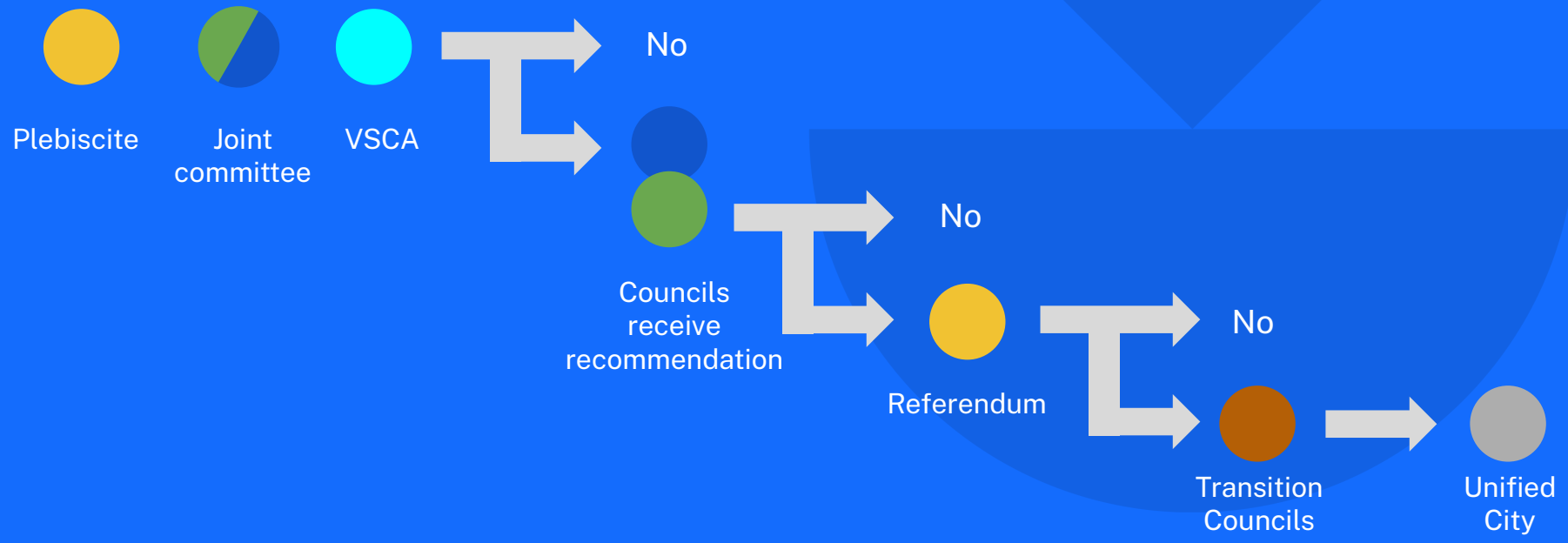
Mayor Alto and Murdock

John Lutz, Early history

Tracy Underwood, JÁEŁNOṈET

Robert Bish, Mergers and alternatives

What happens if the assembly recommendations amalgamation?



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Preview of Sessions 2

- **Victoria and Saanich Overview / Municipal government 101**
- **The Work of Local Government:** A conversation with Brent Reems (CAO of Saanich) and Jocelyn Jenkins (City Manager of Victoria)
- **Understanding the Capital Region District**: Ted Robbins, CAO of the CRD
- **Introduction to the Technical Study:** James Anderson & Bonnie Chan-Meier, MNP
- **Discussions**: Values, Issues, and Elements of the Technical Study

MNP Technical Report Draft outline

Background and Purpose
Local Government in BC Overview
Goals/Aims & Documented Issues
Study Method and Report

Geography
Boundary Map
Population

Financial Overview
Property Taxation
Revenues and Expenditures
Capital Assets and Projects
Debts
Other Considerations (if present)

Municipal Administration and Services
General Government
Planning and Development Services
Protective and Emergency Services
Environmental Health
Parks and Recreation Services
Social Support Services
Other Considerations (if present)

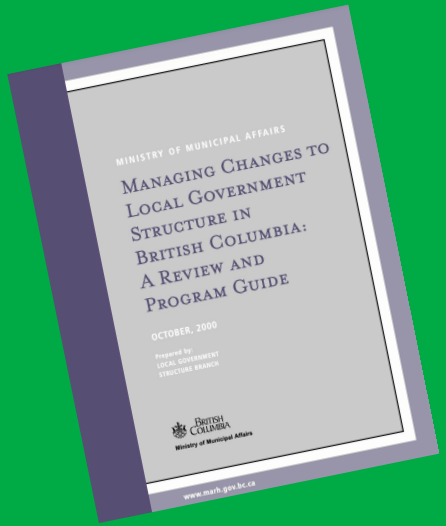
Financial Impacts
Potential Annual Impacts to an Amalgamated Municipality
Potential One-Time Implementation Expenses
Overview of Adjusted General Municipal Tax Rates
Potential Property Tax Impacts on Representative Properties
Other Considerations (if present)

Regional District Impacts (CRD)
Representation
Services Differences (if any)
Other Considerations (if present)

Key considerations noted during study
Naming
Community
Governance
Transition Process
Community Vision, Planning, and Development
Social and Environmental Issues
Disadvantages and Advantages
Other Considerations (if present)

Background Binder

We will post these materials online
You can suggest other materials to add



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Preview of Sessions 3 & 4

Session 3

- Perspectives Panels:
- V & S leaders in conversation (incl. First Nations)
- Housing/Homelessness
- Emergency services

Session 4

- Agricultural Land Reserve (field trip to Rural Saanich)
- Community planning & development

Technical Study is underway

Following a competitive tender, MASS selected the firm MNP to conduct the technical study, as mandated by the project's terms of reference. MNP conducted an RFI with the municipalities and is currently preparing its initial analysis and table of contents to present to the Assembly in Session 2.

The role of the Technical Study is to:

- Define the current state and determine the costs, benefits and disadvantages of amalgamation and provide opportunities for consideration.
- Provide a comprehensive, well-supported report of findings of the amalgamation study as well as engaging brief and long presentations for various audiences.
- Work with MASS LBP, the administrative officials of both communities, and the Citizens' Assembly to develop the scope and study elements for this work that will meet the expectations of officials and citizens.

Public Submissions & Meetings

In September we launched a Public Submissions process whereby individual members of the public, civic associations and groups may make written submissions for the Assembly to consider.

In November, the first two of four Public Meetings will take place. The purpose of the public meetings is to invite the public to meet the Assembly members, learn about the process and issues the Assembly is considering, and help ensure the public feels confident and included in the Assembly's work.

Wednesday November 20	**6-8pm (ONLINE)**
Thursday November 21	**6-8pm (CRYSTAL GARDENS)**

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Thank you!

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